

REMARKS

With this Amendment, claim 13 is canceled. Therefore, claims 1-12, 14-16 and 18-25 are all the claims currently pending in this Application.

Allowed Claims

Claims 1-8 and 18-25 are allowed.

Objections and Claim Amendments

Claim 9 is objected to due to alleged informalities. With this Amendment, Applicant amends claim 9. Applicants believe that the objection to claim 9 regarding “the position adjustment setter” actually refers to claim 12. (Claim 9 does not recite this limitation in line 6, as suggested by the Examiner.) Claim 12 is amended.

Applicant respectfully requests that the objections be withdrawn.

Claim 9 is further amended in order more fully to cover various aspects of Applicants’ invention as disclosed in the specification. Amendments to claim 9 are fully supported in the originally-filed specification at least at paragraph [0037]. Claim 12 is amended in accordance with the amendments to claim 9.

35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicant respectfully submits that the recitation in claim 9 regarding separable ink tanks is fully supported and described in the originally-filed specification at least at paragraph [0005].

Applicant respectfully requests that the §112, first paragraph rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 1039a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kato (U.S. Patent 6,158,834) in view of Otsuki '593 (U.S. Patent 6,700,593¹). Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kato in view of Otsuki '593 and Ohtsuka (U.S. Patent 6,145,950). Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kato in view of Otsuki '593 and Fuse (U.S. Patent 5,539,434). Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kato in view of Otsuki '593 and Otokia (U.S. Patent 6,827,418). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Independent claim 9, as amended, recites, *inter alia*:

wherein each of the one or more ink cartridges further comprises a memory which stores information including types of ink contained therein, wherein the printing apparatus further comprises:
a reader, which reads out information stored in the memory of the one or more ink cartridges, and
a print mode selector which specifies an ink set available to the printing apparatus according to the information read out by the reader, and which selects a bi-directional print mode according to the specified ink set; and
wherein the position adjuster selects the position adjustment value according to the selected bi-directional print mode.

In other words, based on information stored in each of the ink cartridges, the types of ink available are determined, and based on the ink sets available, one of the bi-directional print

¹ Applicants note that in the Office Action, the Examiner refers to "Otsuki et al. (US 6532026 B2)." However, the '026 Patent is a patent to Takahashi, not Otsuki. Further, the references that the Examiner makes to "Otsuki" (e.g. discussing a PROM 43 at col. 10, lines 55-67) are not found in Takahashi '026. These references *are* found in U.S. Patent 6,700,593 to Otsuki. Therefore, it is Applicants understanding that the Examiner mistyped the patent number, and that the Examiner *intended* for the rejection to be over Kato in view of Otsuki, U.S. Patent 6,700,593.

modes is selected, and based on the selected bi-directional print mode, a position adjustment value is selected. This limitation is not disclosed or suggested by any of the cited references, either alone, or in combination. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 9 is patentable and that claims 10-12 and 14-16 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies.

Applicants respectfully request that the prior art rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER


Laura Moskowitz
Registration No. 55,470

Date: September 15, 2008